

ProtectTexas™
Texas Department of Health

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Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health

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January 26, 2004

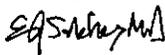
Dear Public Health Stakeholders:

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief update on the transformation of Health and Human Services in Texas. Twelve agencies are being blended to create four departments under the direction of the Health and Human Services Commission. The transformed enterprise is intended to improve client services, use every public dollar efficiently, and focus on real results, and accountability. This new organization will continuously strive to improve services and manage costs by listening to our partners and the people we serve and by putting innovation and new technology into practice.

TDH, the mental health programs at the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR), and the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) will be consolidated under a new department called the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). A draft organizational structure for DSHS has been submitted to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and is available for your review on an HHSC web page at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Consolidation/News/dshs_org/Structure.html. We would appreciate your comments and suggestions on the proposed organizational structure of the new organization. Please feel free to submit your comments and recommendations through our [online submission form](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Consolidation/News/Org_Comments.asp) at http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Consolidation/News/Org_Comments.asp. We will also conduct a series of meetings (schedule attached) to accept public feedback on the proposed organizational structure. The cut off date for submission of comments will be February 13, 2004.

HHSC has also established an email subscription service to update interested parties on the consolidation of health and human service agencies. Those subscribing to the service will be added to a listserve called HHS E-News. This listserve will provide regular news and updates about HHSC and the state's health and human services system. To subscribe simply go to http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Consolidation/Consolidation_home.html and click on the "Subscribe to E-news" link which is found at left-mid page. You are asked to enter an e-mail address and select a password. Upon submission of that form you will receive an e-mail requesting confirmation. Subscribers may set options like digest and delivery modes, get password reminders and unsubscribe. Thank you for your interest in the State's efforts to improve health and human services in Texas.

Sincerely,



Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health

Enclosure